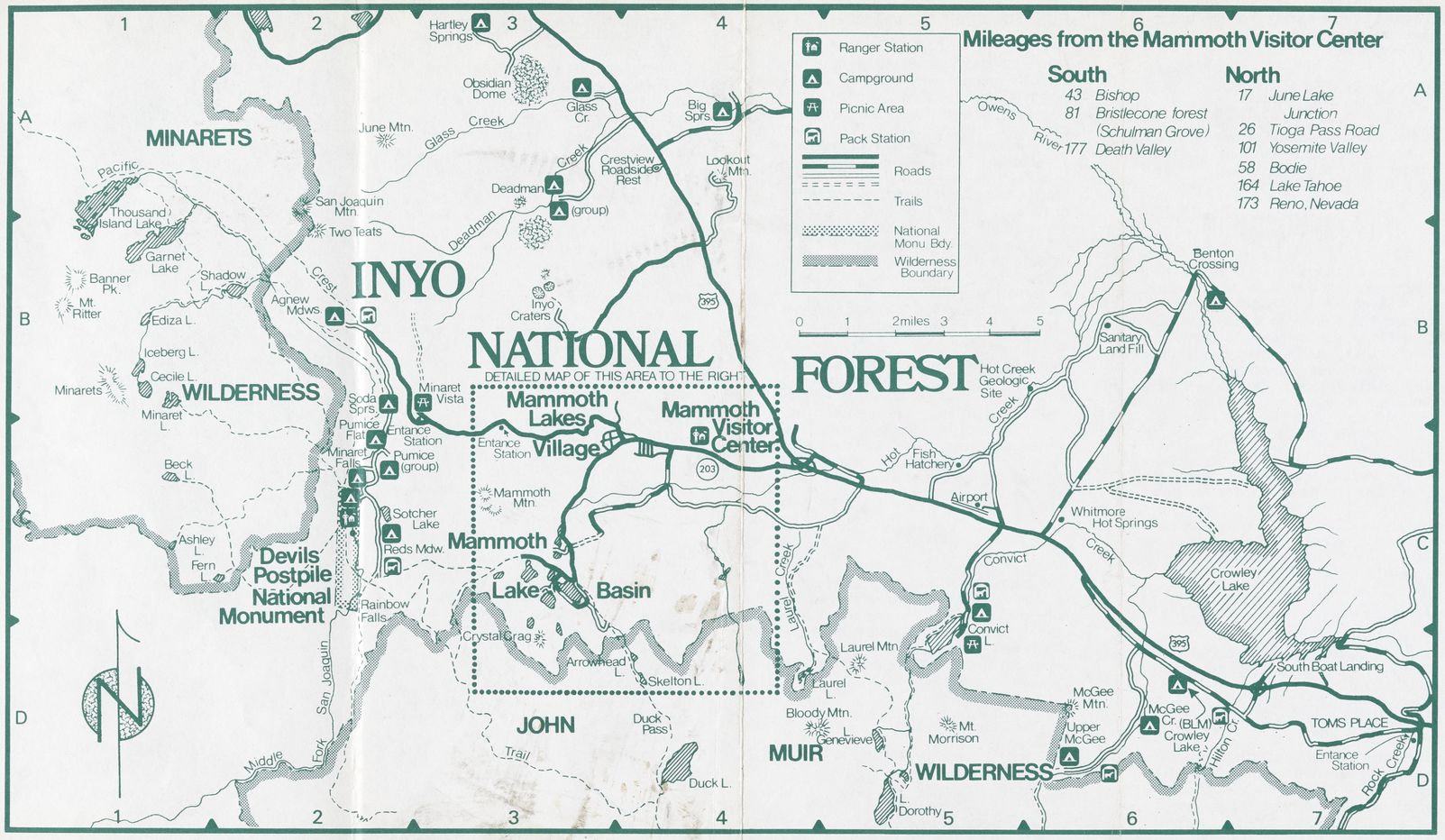
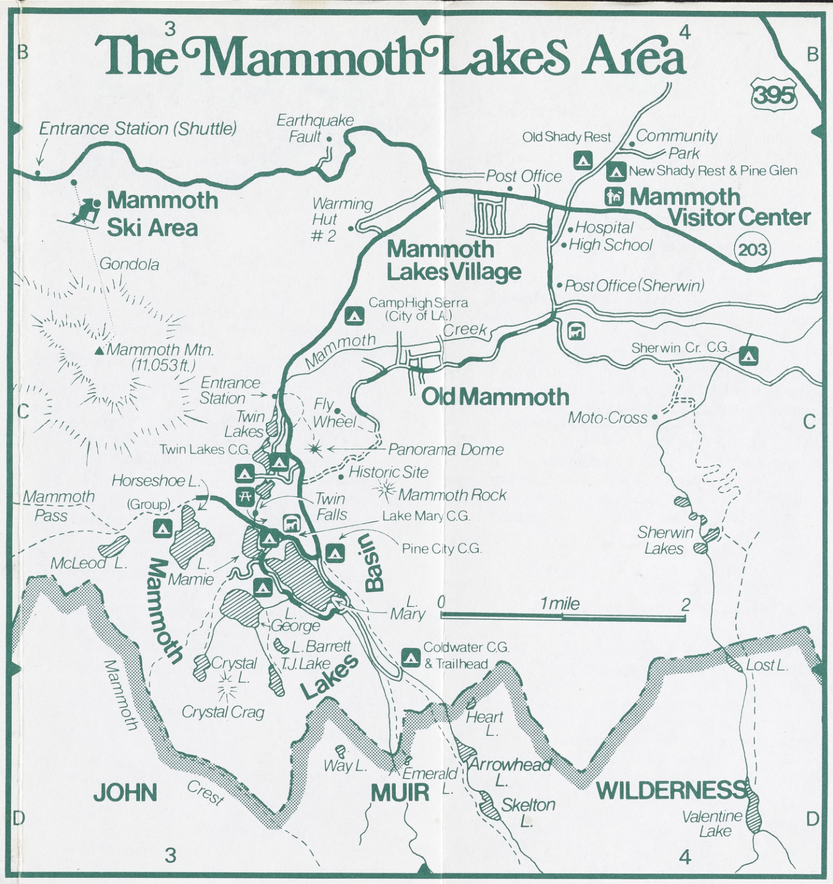




Bodie roads are snowbound from about December to April.

NOTE: All hiking and driving distances are one-way unless otherwise indicated.

CAMPING

SEASON OF USE begins as the snow melts and demand increases. Convict Campground is often open for the first weekend of trout season in late April. Some campgrounds close after Labor Day, but others remain open until closed by snow. Check at the Visitor Center for early and late season information. There are NO HOOKUPS in area campgrounds operated by public agencies. PUBLIC SHOWERS are available for a fee at several local motels. The Visitor Center has a list. DUMP STATIONS are located at Convict and New Shady Rest Campgrounds, the Crestview Rest Area and several local service stations.
Many campgrounds have VOLUNTEER CARETAKERS who can answer your questions.

PINE GLEN, HORSESHOE, AGNEW GROUP, PUMICE GROUP and DEADMAN GROUP Campgrounds are available by reservation only. See Group Camping Section of this guide. CAMP HIGH SIERRA, operated by the City of Los Angeles, is also available by reservation only. Call [213] 485-4853 or [714] 934-2368 for more information.

PLEASE DO NOT USE CAMPSITES FOR DAY USE PARKING.

MAMMOTH AREA CAMPGROUND DIRECTORY

	Map Location	No. of Sites	Fee	Piped Water	Max. day Limit	Toilets
VILLAGE AREA						
Shady Rest [Old and New]	B4	163	yes	yes	14	F
Sherwin Creek	C4	87	yes	yes	21	F
LAKES BASIN [all campers stop at Twin Lakes Entrance Station]						
Coldwater	C3	77	yes	yes	14	F
Lake George	C3	40	yes	yes	7	F
Lake Mary	C3	51	yes	yes	14	F
Pine City	C3	12	yes	yes	14	F
Twin Lakes*	C3	85	yes	yes	7	F
AGNEW-REDS MEADOW AREA						
Agnew Meadows	B2	27	yes	yes	14	C
Devils Postpile [NPS]	C2	24	yes	yes	14	F
Minaret Falls	C2	22	yes	yes	14	C
Pumice Flat	C2	21	yes	yes	14	C
Soda Springs	B2	22	yes	yes	14	C
Reds Meadow	C2	55	yes	yes	14	F
SURROUNDING AREA						
Big Springs	A4	24	no	no	14	V
Convict Lake	C5	92	yes	yes	7	F
Crowley Lake [BLM]	D6	32	yes	yes	14	V
Deadman	A3	30	no	no	21	V
Glass Creek	A3	30	no	no	21	V
Hartley Springs	A3	20	no	no	21	V
McGee [Upper & Lower]	D6	30	no	no	14	V

TOILETS: [F] flush [C] chemical flush [V] vault
*All campsites at Twin Lakes are reserved through TICKETRON between late June and Labor Day: Contact your local outlet.

Welcome to the INYO NATIONAL FOREST

You are visiting a very special area along the eastern edge of California and the Sierra Nevada. A name you will see used frequently in this area is Inyo. This name comes from the Paiute Indian language; it means "dwelling place of the Great Spirit". This phrase summarizes the feeling many people have about Mammoth and its mountainous surroundings.

This guide is intended to be the first stop along your way as you explore the area. But, at best, it is only a beginning. We have made an effort to include references to other sources of information whenever possible. We wish you a pleasant and exciting adventure.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

MAMMOTH VILLAGE TO THE DEVILS POSTPILE

EARTHQUAKE FAULT [B3]: A short nature trail and exhibits describe local volcanic geology. Rest rooms.

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN [C3]: This inactive volcanic peak [11,053 ft.] is the site of a popular ski area. Commercial gondola rides provide the visitor with views of the surrounding country.

MINARET VISTA [B3]: Spectacular views of the Ritter Range. Self-guiding nature trail; picnic tables; rest rooms. A 2½ mi. trail north along the San Joaquin Ridge provides easy hiking.

Due to increasing use, with related dust and congestion problems, a shuttle bus service has been instituted in the Reds Meadow-Devils Postpile area. Day users and backpackers entering the valley when the shuttle is running, must ride the bus. Overnight campers may drive their own vehicles after buying camping permits at the enterance station. For schedules and details, contact the Visitor Center.

DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT [C2]: A 15 minute walk leads to this unique geologic feature. It was formed when molten rock cooled to form columns now 40 to 60 feet high.

RAINBOW FALLS [C2]: 1¼ mile hike; 300 ft. descent. The San Joaquin River plunges 101 ft. over a lava ledge into a steep gorge. Colors in the mist are best at mid-day in summer.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN

PANORAMA DOME [C3]: 1½ mi. loop hike, returning via Valley View Point; 450 ft. climb. A walk through the forest leads to this open hilltop with a panoramic view of the area. Park well off the road near the trail head.

MAMMOTH LAKES [C3]: These lake beds were scooped out of solid rock by Ice Age glaciers. They are popular for scenic photography, fishing, and boating. Swimming at Horseshoe Lake.

CRYSTAL CRAG [D3]: The granite spire which dominates Lakes Basin scenery was formed by the glacial quarrying of a ridge which once separated the drainages of Crystal and T.J. lakes.

BARRETT AND T.J. LAKES [D3]: ½ mi. hike; 260 ft. climb. Summer wildflowers in moist places.

CRYSTAL LAKE [C3]: 1¼ mi. hike, 640 ft. climb. A steep hike rewarded with views of the Mammoth Crest, Lakes Basin, Gold Mountain and Crystal Crag.

TWIN FALLS OVERLOOK [C3]: The falls drop dramatically over a shelf of resistant volcanic rock, 300 ft. to the lakes below. Picnic tables; toilets.

OLD MAMMOTH

MILL CITY FLY WHEEL [C3]: A short walk from the road leads to this remnant of Mammoth mining days. The 14-ton fly wheel powered a stamp mill which crushed the ore from which gold was extracted.

HISTORIC SITE [C3]: The site of "Mammoth City", where 1500 miners and businessmen lived 100 years ago; includes tailings from four principal mining tunnels operated by the Mammoth Mining Company from 1878-1880.

ALONG HIGHWAY 395

CONVICT LAKE [C5]: Sheer cliffs of highly colored rock frame a natural lake formed when the debris left by melting glaciers blocked the stream. Picnic tables; rest rooms. A level, 1 mi. walk along the north shore provides a changing view of the lake, and the dramatic backdrop of Mt. Morrison.

HOT CREEK GEOLOGIC SITE [B5]: Hot springs flowing into a cold mountain stream remind us that volcanic activity is still alive in the area.
CAUTION: Swimming is not recommended due to natural hazards. *Hot Creek is closed to all use from sunset to sunrise in summer and fall; it is closed 24 hr/day from late November until April 1.* Toilets.

HOT CREEK FISH HATCHERY [C5]: The warm springs of Hot Creek provide an ideal temperature for incubation of trout eggs and rapid development of fish to planting size. Operated by the California Department of Fish and Game. Open daily 8 to 5.

INYO CRATERS [B3]: A ¼ mi. walk from the parking area leads to the craters of two volcanic blast pits. The craters are only a few hundred years old, and contain small lakes. Picnic tables; toilet.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN [A4]: A steep, narrow dirt road leads to the top of this obsidian hill. It rises 1000 ft. above Jeffrey pine-forested flatlands, providing views in all directions.

OBSIDIAN DOME [A3]: One of a series of obsidian flows east of the Sierra crest, the dome is a hill of solid volcanic glass which was formed within the past 1000 years.

LONGER TRIPS

JUNE LAKE LOOP: Located 15 mi. north of Mammoth off Hwy. 395, the June Lake Loop offers striking mountain scenery, fishing, hiking, camping and resort facilities. Swimming at June Lake. June Mountain Ski Area operates during the winter. The drive passes June, Gull, Silver and Grant Lakes before returning to Hwy. 395 south of Lee Vining.

MONO LAKE: This inland sea is known for its large bird population, scenic value, and ornate shoreline formations called tufa towers. It is located along Hwy. 395, 25 mi. north of Mammoth. A county park offering displays, picnic tables and rest rooms is located just east of Hwy. 395, on the north shore of the lake.

YOSEMITE: The Tioga Pass entrance station of Yosemite National Park is reached by traveling 26 mi. north of Mammoth on Hwy. 395, and 12 mi. west on Route 120. The Tuolomne Meadows area, 5 mi. beyond the park entrance, offers a full range of visitor services. Yosemite Valley is 58 mi. further on. Tioga Pass is closed in winter.

BODIE: Bodie State Historic Site, located north of Mammoth off Hwy. 395, is a gold-mining ghost town of the late 1800's. Travel 45 mi. north on Hwy 395 to the Bodie road, then east 13 mi. on a dirt road to the site. An alternate route [or loop trip] involves travelling 36 mi. north to Route 167; east 7 mi. to the Bodie turnoff; north 10 mi. on a dirt road to the town. Visiting hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the summer, and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the shorter days of the year. The

FISHING

Fishing ranks high as a popular activity among spring and summer visitors to the Mammoth Sierra. The variety of fishing includes: Shore and boat fishing on the lakes; stream and river fishing; and for the hiker-fisherman, a wealth of back-country possibilities.

The MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN [Twin, Mary, Mamie, George and Horseshoe Lakes] is a popular fishing area, for good reason. These lakes are easily reached by car. They are heavily stocked with rainbows and have natural populations of brook trout. Twin, Mary and Mamie also have browns. Boats are permitted on all Basin Lakes. However, only rowboats and electric motors are permitted on Twin, and no motors are allowed on Horseshoe. The speed limits for boats on all lakes is 10 mph. Twin Lakes has a special fishing dock for the handicapped. Seven resorts, operated privately under special use permit from the Forest Service, are located in the Lakes Basin. They offer boat rentals, docking, launching, fishing licenses and groceries.

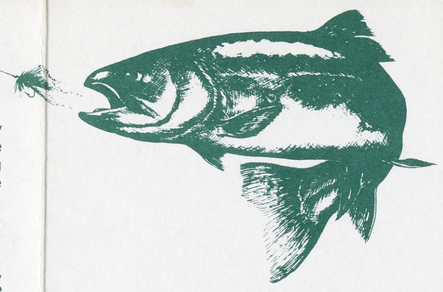
CONVICT LAKE located south of Mammoth off Hwy. 395, has rainbow, brown and brook trout. Shore fishing and trolling are both successful. Boats and motors are permitted; speed limit is 10 mph. A resort on the lake offers boat rentals, groceries, fishing licenses and supplies.

CROWLEY LAKE is a large reservoir for the City of Los Angeles water supply system. Trout season closes at Crowley on July 31, while the season for Sacramento Perch continues through Labor Day. Water skiing and sailing are permitted on designated areas of the lake between July 4 and Labor Day. The lake has rainbow and brown trout as well as perch. Boat rentals, launching and docking are available at the South Boat Landing.

SOTCHER LAKE, located near Reds Meadow, has rainbow and brown trout. Shore fishing and rowboats are allowed. Boats may be rented from the resort at Reds Meadow.

LAKES ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY TRAIL are stocked by air-drop methods. Laurel Lakes are reached by a 4-mile jeep trail. Sherwin Lakes, the lakes on the Duck Pass trail, and many small lakes set away from the road in the Basin area, provide good fishing in return for a round-trip hike of 5 miles or less. Numerous streams and lakes in the John Muir and Minarets Wilderness Areas reward the overnight hiker. Please obtain a permit at the Visitor Center when planning to enter the wilderness.

THE OWENS RIVER is one of the most popular sites of stream fishing for rainbow and brown trout in the area. The river is accessible at Benton Crossing just north



of Crowley Lake; and at Big Springs Campground north of Mammoth and east of Hwy. 395.

THE MIDDLE FORK SAN JOAQUIN RIVER is accessible from the Reds Meadow Road. It contains rainbow, brown and brook trout. Several open riverside meadows are attractive to the fly fisherman

Smaller streams which are regularly stocked include: MAMMOTH, SHERWIN, CONVICT, McGEE, HILTON, GLASS and DEADMAN Creeks. Part of HOT CREEK is posted for fly fishing only. It is a wild trout stream; artificial flies are required, and there is a creel limit of two fish per day. Avoid the posted private land along Hot Creek between the fish hatchery and the gorge.

LICENSING

Any person over 16 years of age must have a fishing license in order to fish public waters. Licenses are sold by local resorts and sporting goods stores. Resident and non-resident, short-term and seasonal licenses are available. California fishing regulations apply.

WHERE ARE THEY BITING?

Rumor has it that no one tells, but that isn't always true. Local newspapers, radio stations and sporting goods stores have current reports on fishing success in the area.

IF YOU'RE 62 YEARS OF AGE

The Golden Age Passport is issued upon request, free of charge to persons 62 years of age and over. A pass entitles the owner to a 50% discount on fees in National Forest and National Park Campgrounds. It also provides free entrance into National Parks.

GROUP CAMPING

Group campgrounds are available by reservation only to groups of 10-50 people. Reservations may be made beginning January 1 for the following summer. Pine Glen has been specially modified for the handicapped, and may be reserved by handicapped individuals as well as by groups. Reservations for Pine Glen, Pumice, Horseshoe and Agnew Group Camps are made through the Mammoth Ranger Station [714] 934-2505; Deadman group camping may be arranged with the Mono Lake Ranger Station [714] 647-6525. Fees depend upon the size of the group.

CAMPFIRE PERMITS

A campfire permit is required for building campfires at sites which are not in developed campgrounds and not in the wilderness. [A wilderness permit includes a campfire permit]. Camping is permitted on National Forest land which is not restricted. Nearby restricted areas include Forest Service lands in the Mammoth Village area, the Mammoth Lakes Basin, the Agnew-Reds Meadow area and Convict Canyon. Camping in these areas is restricted to developed campsites. The Hot Creek Geologic Site is closed to all camping. For the exact boundaries of restricted areas, contact the Visitor Center.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Inyo National Forest lands on which ORV use is permitted, are outlined on the Interagency Vehicle Use Map. Free copies are available at the Visitor Center.

TO THE WILDERNESS TRAVELER

The Mammoth Sierra includes trail heads leading into both the Minarets and the John Muir Wilderness Areas. Hikers and horseback riders entering the wilderness, whether for a day or for a longer trip, must obtain a wilderness permit. Permits enable the Forest Service to inform visitors of backcountry regulations and conditions. They also provide statistical information useful in planning for wise management of the backcountry.

When requesting a wilderness permit, it is necessary to know the starting and ending dates of the trip, the proposed route of travel, and estimated locations of each night's campsite. Most area trailheads have quotas; advance reservations are available February 1.

BUT WHERE?

Wilderness permits for the area including AGNEW MEADOWS on the north and CONVICT LAKE on the south, may be obtained from the MAMMOTH VISITOR CENTER.

Permits for trailheads north of Agnew Meadows are issued by the MONO LAKE RANGER STATION on Hwy. 120, 1 mi. west of Hwy 395. Permits for trailheads south of Convict Lake may be obtained from the WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER STATION, 798 N. Main St., in Bishop.

Permits for adjacent areas south of Rock Creek may be obtained from the WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER STATION, 798 N. Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514.

THERE IS NOW A LIMIT

Wilderness is a delicate and irreplaceable resource. Due to heavy use during the peak season, there are daily quotas on overnight travel from designated Inyo N. F. trailheads. Quotas apply to travel between June 16 and September 15 on all trails leading into the Minarets Wilderness from Agnew Meadows and the Devils Postpile. There is also a quota on the Coldwater trailhead into the John Muir Wilderness. Other quotas may be developed as the need arises.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

Although the Sierra Nevada has been called a gentle wilderness, changeable weather, steep terrain and high elevations present a variety of potential hazards to the backcountry user. Prepare for storminess any time of year. Carry adequate food and clothing, even when on a day hike. Heed your body's warning system and stop for food, warm clothing or rest when tired, chilled or short of breath. Swift stream crossings and snow fields present special hazards. Hang food, using a counterbalance system, when camping where bears have been reported. Carry a map and know how to use it. Let a friend know your planned route and when you intend to return.

During the winter season, the Mammoth Visitor Center offers a backcountry sign out service in addition to issuing wilderness permits. The issuance of a permit is not in itself a sign out procedure. Search and rescue operations are only initiated through the sheriff's office at the request of a friend or family member.

DAY-HIKING

The Mammoth Visitor has a wealth of opportunities for scenic walks from a half-hour to a day in length. Several options are mentioned under the Points of Interest Section of this guide. For additional suggestions, contact the Visitor Center.

SNOW SEASON

Along the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, winter is an exciting time of year for the outdoor recreationist. Backpackers put on their snowshoes, and families who were fishing in August return with their skis in December. Mammoth Mountain Ski area, located on public land, is operated privately under special use permit from the U. S. Forest Service. Twenty-five chair lifts, pomas, T-bars and gondolas serve skiers on the mountain. The ski season is a long one, lasting typically from Thanksgiving until May. Snow conditions are excellent, with a deep base in most years.

While alpine skiing still dominates the Mammoth winter scene, other winter sports are also popular. There are many opportunities for nordic skiing and snowmobiling.

The Forest Service offers various services geared to the winter visitor. The Visitor Center is open year-round. Information available there includes: Road, weather and avalanche conditions; cross-country ski and snowmobile routes; safety and survival literature, and information on snow play and ice skating areas. In addition to the facilities and services available on a daily basis, there are guided tours and evening programs designed to emphasize safety and enrich the recreational experience.

BUT I STILL HAVE A QUESTION. . . .

THE MAMMOTH VISITOR CENTER is a good place to ask questions about local outdoor recreation. If we cannot answer your question, we can probably direct you to sources of information which meet your specific needs. Maps, books and handouts are available: Some free of charge, others for sale. A detailed relief map orients the visitor to the area, and museum displays present information on local history and the natural surroundings. Facilities and services also include: Public rest rooms, lost and found, message box, weather reports, camping and backcountry information. Evening programs and guided tours are offered during the peak summer and winter visitor seasons. Forest Service Rangers are available to discuss resource management activities and policies.

The Forest Service also operates summer ENTRANCE STATIONS near Mammoth Mountain Ski Area [shuttle bus station] and Minaret Summit. They have a limited number of maps and handouts, and have current information on campgrounds in the area they serve.

The National Park Service maintains a ranger station at the DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT during the summer. Books, literature, programs and tours are available.

If you want to know more about commercial accommodations and eating places in Mammoth, visit or call the MAMMOTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, located at the corner of Hwy. 203 and Old Mammoth Road. Telephone: [714] 934-2712.

The LAKES DISTRICT REVIEW and the MONO HERALD are local weekly newspapers, both of which reach the stands on Thursdays. They are sold in many local stores. KMMT is a Mammoth station found at 106.3 on your FM dial. Local cable television programming is broadcasted on Channel 5.

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA has 24-hour recorded information at [714] 934-6166. They report on snow conditions and facilities in operation.

CALTRANS reports on road conditions and chain controls. Their 24 hours recorded information phone number is [714] 873-6366.

Maps of the Mammoth area are available at the Visitor Center, the Chamber of Commerce and several local book and sports stores. These maps include the Mt. Morrison and Devils Postpile USGS topographic quadrangles, the Inyo National Forest Recreation Map and a number of local commercial publications.

Jeffrey Pine

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Ambulance 934-2566
Mono County Sheriff 934-2566
Fire: Community 934-2200
Forest 934-2505 or 873-3300
Hospital 934-3311
Towing call "0" and ask for Zenith 1500

MAMMOTH VISITOR CENTER AND RANGER STATION
[714] 934-2505
24-hr recorded information [714] 934-6611
Mailing address: U. S. Forest Service
P. O. Box 148
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

revised 1980

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION
FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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